



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting Minute

Date: Monday, April 17, 2023

Time: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants-Bill Valentine, John Hartline, Jamar Day, Steve McHenry, Don Mulrine, Kimberly Kratovil, Rachel Jones, Josh Bollinger, Bill Christopher, Alice Settle-Raskin, Susanne Richards, Scott Warner, Matt Tefteau, Janice Palmer, Charlotte Davis, Mollie Cole, Amanda Clevenger, Megan D'Arcy.

Committee Co-Chair Chris Benzing welcomed everyone and convened the meeting 2:02pm. Co-Chair Benzing asked for a motion to approve the March 27, 2023, meeting minutes. Don Mulrine made the motion to accept the March 27, 2023, meeting minutes, Bill Christopher seconded the motion. The March 27, 2023, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Co-Chair Benzing and Charlotte Davis provided a session overview and highlighted the following bills:

- HB695-Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund – Revisions and Sunset Repeal (Rural Communities Improvement Act of 2023). RMC was fully funded and received an additional \$300,000 from Appropriations for Maryland Non-emergency medical transportation. Additionally, Entrepreneurship was expanded to include workforce development, cooperative development, and agricultural development.
- HB596/SB511 – Health and Human Services Transportation Improvement Act of 2023 - Passed Both Chambers as Amended. This bill established a State Coordinating Committee for Health and Human Services Transportation in the Maryland Department of Transportation and repealed the limits on annual funding for the Maryland Senior Rides Program and the Job Access and Reverse Commute Program administered by the Maryland Transit Administration. The bill was not funded but RMC received \$300,000 from Appropriations that will be put towards a pilot program for Maryland Non-Emergency Medical Transportation.

Co-Chair Benzing and Charlotte Davis reviewed the following policy related events and thanked everyone for participating. Events included the Legislative Welcome Breakfast on January 17, 2023; the Quarterly Executive Board Meeting and Legislative Luncheon on January 27, 2023; Virtual Rural Maryland Day on February 9, 2023 and the Maryland Day grab & go lunch on March 24, 2023.

Co-Chair Benzing reviewed the bill tracker and position statements that were included in the materials and thanked everyone for their contributions during session and the support from RMC staff.

The Committee reviewed the draft Legislative Review that was included in the materials. Co-chair Benzing made the motion to approve the Legislative Review and recommend that the Executive Committee accept it. Don Mulrine made the motion to approve the draft Legislative Review, Scott Warner seconded the motion. Edits were asked to be sent to RMC staff.

Charlotte Davis reported that there were three bills that were going to be signed and invited Committee members to join as they played an important role during session, providing guidance and getting the work done, plus it is an opportunity to get a picture with the Governor and the presiding officers.

The Committee discussed the in-person/hybrid meeting in the fall. Charlotte Davis introduced the new Program Coordinator Mollie Cole stating that she will be working closely with the Committee next year on the position statements and legislative related work. The meeting adjourned at 2:34pm.